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The Hon. Sir Archibald Campbell :—" I cannot hold out any hopes of carrying out the recommendations of the Executive Engineer in the near future, owing to the large remissions of land revenue."

Mr. G. R. Premayya :—" May I know, Sir, when the plans and estimates relating to the Kollimerla basin have been prepared and sent to the Executive Engineer? "

The Hon. Sir Archibald Campbell :—" I must ask for notice of the question."

Contributions payable on account of repairs to minor irrigation sources.

* 648 *Q.*—A. M. Ahmed Meeran Sahib Bahadur: Will the Hon. the Member for Revenue be pleased to state—

(*a*) when the policy of demanding contributions in respect of repairs of minor irrigation sources was brought into practice; and

(*b*) whether the Government will be pleased to lay on the table a statement of receipts and charges on ' minor irrigation works ' during the years 1930–31 and 1931–32?

A.—(*a*) The attention of the hon. Member is invited to section 6 of Madras Act I of 1858 which provides for the levy of contribution in lieu of customary labour and to paragraphs 72 and 73 of Mr. Leach's report on Retrenchment of Land Revenue Establishment. The Government have accepted Mr. Leach's suggestions.

(*b*) Statements showing (1) contribution realized for repairs to, and (2) expenditure incurred on, minor irrigation works in the charge of the Revenue department in 1930–31 and 1931–32 are attached.[a] Information regarding the revenue realized by Government from these works is not available.

Land Revenue Administration

Representations from the Ryots' and Mirasidars' Associations of South Arcot for redress of grievances.

* 649 *Q.*—Mr. Basheer Ahmed Sayeed: Will the Hon. the Member for Revenue be pleased to state—

(*a*) whether the Government or the District Collector has received any representations from the various mirasidars' associations of South Arcot, as to the remission of land revenue and the redress of other connected grievances of the ryots in the district;

(*b*) if so, from what associations and individuals have such representations been received and what the subjects complained of are and the nature of the redress that is prayed for;

[a] Printed as Appendix III on pages 106–107 infra.

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(c) what action have the Government taken or propose to take in regard to each one of the grievances complained of;

(d) whether any investigation has been made as to the exact nature and real position of each one of the grievances and, if not, whether such an investigation will be directed; and

(e) whether the Ryots' and Mirasidars' Associations will be given an opportunity to substantiate their grievances before the Government dispose of their representations and communications?

A.—(a) Yes.

(b) It is not possible without excessive labour to compile a list of associations and individuals from whom representations have been received. The more important of the concessions asked for were—

(1) that the suspended revenue of fasli 1342 should be remitted;

(2) that a portion of the land revenue of the current fasli should be remitted;

(3) that facilities should be provided for the marketing of paddy;

(4) that the assessment of land revenue should be placed on a statutory basis;

(5) that land revenue should be collected in kind;

(6) that the kistbandi should be revised; and

(7) that tree-tax should be reduced.

Some representations were also received in connexion with the damage caused by the cyclone in the district.

(c) As regards damage caused by the cyclone the attention of the hon. Member is invited to question No. 629 and the answer thereto.

As regards requests 1, 2 and 3 mentioned in answer to clause (b) the attention of the hon. Member is invited to the concluding portion of paragraph 4 and paragraphs 5 and 6 of the Press Communiqué, dated 10th January 1934.

No action was considered necessary on requests 4 and 5.

The question whether the kistbandi should be revised has been considered recently and no action was therefore taken on request 6.

Whether there is a case for the reduction of tree-tax in view of the fall in prices is being taken up as a general question.

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(*d*) The Government had received a precis of the report of the Collector regarding the economic condition of agriculturists in the district and this was considered before a decision was taken on the land revenue concessions to be granted.

(*e*) The Government consider that the course suggested is not feasible.

Mr. Basheer Ahmed Sayeed :—" May I ask, Sir, whether the Hon. the Revenue Member will reconsider the question of postponing the collection of kist from the month of January to the month of February and the succeeding three months? "

The Hon. Sir Archibald Campbell :—" I do not think we can postpone the kist."

Mr. A. Ranganatha Mudaliyar :—" In regard to item (3) of the answer to clause (*b*) relating to the provision of facilities for the marketing of paddy, we are referred to the Press Communiqué, dated the 10th January 1934. Do the Government refer to the appointment of a special officer to go into the question? "

The Hon. Sir Archibald Campbell :—" Yes, Sir."

Mr. A. Ranganatha Mudaliyar :—" Is that appointment made to meet the current distress or for future purposes also? "

The Hon. Sir Archibald Campbell :—" I hope it will lead to improvements in the marketing of paddy permanently."

Mr. Basheer Ahmed Sayeed :—" May I ask whether it is not a fact that these representations that have been received by the Government have made out a case that kist should be collected only in later months than January? "

The Hon. Sir Archibald Campbell :—" No, Sir."

Mr. Basheer Ahmed Sayeed :—" May I ask, Sir, whether any further enquiry has been instituted by the Government in regard to the conditions that now prevail about harvest and other crops that are now raised on dry lands? "

The Hon. Sir Archibald Campbell :—" No, Sir. The matter was gone into in 1931–32."

Mr. A. Ranganatha Mudaliyar :—" The Government are now considering what more facilities or concessions should be given for relieving the condition of the ryots. It was stated so, Sir, on the floor of this House. May I ask the Government, with reference to this question, whether they have come to any decision at all with regard to granting further concessions? "

The Hon. Sir Archibald Campbell :—" Does the hon. Member refer to remissions or suspensions of land revenue? "

Mr. A. Ranganatha Mudaliyar :—" Yes, Sir."

The Hon. Sir Archibald Campbell :—" The Government are maintaining the position that they have already taken up."